The Columbus Dispatch

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Deal close on unified opioid settlement

By Randy Ludlow
The Columbus Dispatch

A deal to unify the state and local governments in pursuit of an "all Ohio" settlement of opioid damage claims with the pharmaceutical industry could be close to approval.

Following months of negotiations that led to a meeting featuring Gov. Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost on Tuesday, an agreement could be announced soon, sources told The Dispatch.

DeWine and Yost have urged city attorneys, county prosecutors and their outside attorneys to join together to leverage a settlement with the drug industry that could exceed $1 billion.

Attorneys representing the state and outside counsel for local governments have agreed how to divide and distribute potential settlement money, a source close to the discussions said.

With the approval of a "super majority" of local elected officials being sought to seal the deal, sources said DeWine and Yost met with local officials on Tuesday afternoon.

"Discussions continue, and the governor remains optimistic," said DeWine press secretary Dan Tierney. A spokesman for Yost declined to comment.

See OPIOID, A4

CULLING THE FIELD

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and his wife, Jane Sanders, depart after speaking to supporters Tuesday outside the McDonough School in Manchester, N.H. [TYLER SIZEMORE/HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA]

Sanders leads in early N.H. returns; Yang, Bennet drop out

By Steve Peoples, Kathleen Ronayne and Hunter Woodall
The Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Fiery progressive Bernie Sanders was leading in early returns Tuesday night from the New Hampshire primary in his bid for Democratic front-runner status. The party hoped the results in the first-in-the-nation primary would bring some clarity to a presidential nomination fight that has so far been marred by dysfunction and doubt.

With 44 percent of the vote counted, Sanders, the only candidate to have predicted victory, had 27.7 percent of the

See CULLING, A5

Inside

Rising Bloomberg facing controversy, **Page A3**

OD deaths push county morgue to capacity

By Bethany Bruner and Jim Woods
The Columbus Dispatch

Drug-overdose deaths in Franklin County are at their highest ever, the county coroner says, pushing the morgue to capacity and leading her to consider opening a temporary morgue to handle the overflow.

"We have been very, very, very close," Dr. Anahi Ortiz, Franklin County coroner, told The Dispatch Tuesday.

Ortiz also said there were 34 suspected overdose deaths from Jan. 31 through Sunday.

See OD, A2

Jury hearing latest batch of PFAS cases

By Beth Burger
The Columbus Dispatch

At 16, Travis Abbott remembers basketball teammates noticing his swollen left testicle in the locker room.

After the jeers, he returned home and bravely told his mom, "I think something is wrong with me."

See PFAS, A8

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